

REMARKS

The Office Action asserts that two (2) distinct groups of the invention are contained in this application, namely:

Group I: Claim 55; and

Group II: Claims 56-69.

Applicant elects Group II: Claims 56-69.

Additionally, Applicant has added claims 60-79. Of these, claims 61-64, 66-69, 71-74 and 76-79 depend directly or indirectly from the elected claims and claims 60, 65, 70 and 75 depend directly or indirectly from non-elected claim 55. Accordingly, these latter claims are designated as both “New” claims and as “Withdrawn” claims based on the Examiner’s Restriction Requirement.

Furthermore, claims 55-59 have been amended for editorial purposes and new claims 60-79 have been added, which are supported by the original claims and support can be found throughout the specification. Thus no new matter has been added by way of this Amendment. Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner maintains the Restriction Requirement, examination of claims belonging to Group II, i.e., claims 56-59, 61-64, 66-69, 71-74 and 76-79 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be beneficial in order to place this application in even better condition for examination and allowance, the Examiner

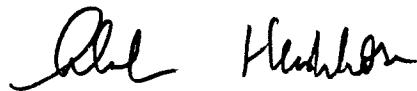
P43312.A05

is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representatives at the telephone number listed below. Favorable consideration and early allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Please charge any additional fees necessary for consideration of the papers filed herein, to preserve the pendency of this application and refund excess payments to Deposit Account No. 50-2929, referencing Docket Number P43312.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the undersigned may be contacted at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Claudio R. BALLARD



---

Abraham Hershkovitz  
Reg. No. 45,294

Dinh X. Nguyen  
Reg. No. 54,923

February 12, 2008

HERSHKOVITZ & ASSOCIATES, LLC  
2845 DUKE STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314  
(703) 370-4800  
(703) 370-4809 (FAX)

P43312.A05 Restriction Response w/ Amendment; AH/DXN/jz